

VZCZCXRO2370
OO RUEHPB RUEHPT
DE RUEHBY #0491 1460644
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 260644Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1537
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2110
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9482
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 1865
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 5450
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 2587
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 2010
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9809
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 1735
RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 1552
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3549
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 5798
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 6368
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 4632
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 4592
RUEAHL/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000491

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/IHP; STATE PLEASE PASS DHHS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KFLU](#) [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [TBIO](#) [KSAF](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#)
PINR, AMGT, MG, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA H1N1 SITREP MAY 26, 2009

REF: A. SECSTATE 42324
[1](#)B. SECSTATE 41745
[1](#)C. CANBERRA 415
[1](#)D. CANBERRA 419
[1](#)E. CANBERRA 448
[1](#)F. CANBERRA 487

[1](#)1. (SBU) The following is the latest SITREP covering Australia's response to the H1N1 outbreak.

[1](#)2. (SBU) Government Response: Australia confirmed more than 20 new cases of H1N1 over the Memorial Day weekend, and raised its response level from Delay to Contain late on May [1](#)22. According to the National Incident Room, cases have now been confirmed in all states except the Northern Territory and Tasmania. Authorities have requested more than 2000 passengers on the cruise ship Pacific Dawn (which docked in Sydney) self-quarantine for seven days following the confirmation of four cases among the passengers on that vessel. Five schools are now closed in Victoria and South Australia following confirmation of cases among students. There are still no fatal cases reported in Australia, and pre-positioned personal protective equipment and medications are now in place in all major cities except Canberra. On May 25, the Australian Capital Territory Chief Medical Officer ordered that children returning from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Japan should be quarantined at home for seven days before being allowed to return to school. Australia has activated its Home Quarantine Support System to provide needed support for those who cannot easily manage a seven-day quarantine.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Case Count: Since the outbreak of H1N1, Australia has investigated a total of 873 suspect cases, and confirmed 31 H1N1 infections. 125 suspect cases are still being investigated. 22 Australians have been investigated or quarantined by health authorities in Hong Kong, New Zealand, Korea, China, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

[1](#)4. (SBU) Post Actions: Post continues to monitor the H1N1 situation in Australia.

15. (SBU) Consular Issues: As of May 26, there are no requests for consular assistance involving H1N1.

16. (SBU) Public Diplomacy: The rapid expansion of cases and closing of schools has re-energized reporting on H1N1 in the media, but the focus has been on the domestic situation, with limited reporting on U.S. or international conditions.

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